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March 26, 2001

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: IB Docket No. 00-248

Dear Ms. Salas:

Transmitted herewith, on behalf of Andrew Corporation, are an original and four (4) copies of its comments filed in response to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 00-435, released December 14, 2000 in the above-referenced proceeding. A copy of these comments is also submitted herewith on a 3.5 inch diskette in Word 97 format.

Should any questions arise in connection with this filing, kindly contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Francis E. Fletcher, Jr.

Cc: James F. Petelle, Esq.
Mr. Ralph Brooker
Dewey B. Crawford, Esq.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
2000 Biennial Regulatory Review --	)	
Streamlining and Other Revisions of Part 25 of	)	IB Docket No. 00-248
The Commission's Rules Governing the Licensing	)	
Of, and Spectrum Usage by, Satellite Network	)	
Earth Stations and Space Stations	)	

To: The Commission

COMMENTS OF ANDREW CORPORATION

Andrew Corporation ("Andrew"), by its attorneys, hereby submits its comments in response to the *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* adopted on December 11, 2000 in the above-captioned proceeding.[1/] Andrew is a leading manufacturer of antennas, including dish antennas used in satellite earth stations. Accordingly, Andrew is vitally interested in the rule changes proposed by the Commission in the *NPRM*.

Andrew commends the Commission for proposing revisions to its rules to reduce the burdens on earth station operators seeking routine authorizations and for streamlining the process for non-routine earth station applications. In particular, the proposed revisions to Rule Section 25.209 and the proposed addition of new Section 25.220 with regard to non-routine antenna gain patterns represent positive steps towards allowing satellite operators greater flexibility in deploying smaller, more economical antennas. As noted by the Commission, companies are increasingly using satellite systems to deliver Internet traffic from international points to gateway earth stations and from the public Internet along the "last mile" to earth station antennas

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1/ *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, IB Docket No. 00-248* (FCC 00-435, rel. Dec. 14, 2000) (the "*NPRM*").

customer's homes. *NPRM*, ¶ 4. Further, the Commission correctly recognizes that there are strong economic and other incentives to using smaller aperture earth station antennas given that they are less expensive to manufacture and can be accommodated in more locations. *NPRM*, ¶ 12.

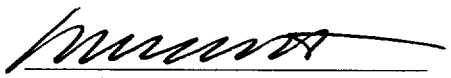
Andrew believes that the imposition of antenna gain restrictions between the 1° and 2° angles unnecessarily harms manufacturers and satellite operators by restricting use of 3 to 4.5 meter antennas in earth stations that meet objective requirements for limiting harmful interference. Among many other benefits, use of such smaller antennas may permit satellite-delivered Internet access service to help bridge the Digital Divide by delivering high speed Internet access to rural and other underserved areas. The public interest clearly is served, therefore, by maximizing operators' flexibility to use non-conforming antennas in appropriate circumstances.

With regard to the proposed rule changes, Andrew offers the following specific suggestions. First, Andrew questions the foundation for the Commission's concern that an increase in the number of non-conforming antennas "may" cause interference between a U.S. satellite serving North America and a South American satellite, notwithstanding there being no footprint overlap, because of the 1° spacing between the satellites. *See NPRM*, ¶ 29. The FCC cites no quantitative justification for this concern. Rather than soliciting the (predictable) opinions of operators as to whether they believe earth station antennas authorized under the proposed streamlined processing rules for antennas not complying with § 25.209(a)(1) would adversely impact existing coordination agreements (*NPRM*, ¶ 30), the Commission should change the starting angle defined in 25.209(a)(1) from 1° to 2°, subject to affirmative quantitative predictions of harmful interference by satellite operators. Andrew believes that

there is inadequate justification for the Commission's concern that satellites spaced at 1° will cause harmful interference to antennas with gain over the prescribed 29-25log (Theta) curve for angles between 1 and 2 degrees. In addition, while Andrew has no substantive objection to proposed Rule Section 25.220, the rule as written is somewhat difficult to follow. Andrew suggests that it be restructured to address transmit and receive stations separately.

Andrew appreciates the opportunity to participate in this proceeding and urges the Commission to continue to seek ways to expedite processing of earth station applications and to allow use of smaller aperture antennas.

ANDREW CORPORATION

By: 

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March 26, 2001

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